

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/889,473

Examiner

Kevin Quarterman

Applicant(s)

MURAI ET AL.

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 20 December 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-33,38,41-48 and 55.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks received 20 December 2005 have been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-7, 9-33, 38, 41-48, 54, and 55 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 8-20, 39-41, and 43 were previously objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 21-33 and 44-48 were previously allowed.

4. Applicant has canceled claim 8, while incorporating its allowable subject matter into independent claim 1. Thus, regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to other limitations of the claim, an insulating layer in an area corresponding to a shortest discharge gap composed of magnesium oxide and a remaining area composed of a material having a lower electron emission rate than magnesium oxide. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 1, claims 2-7, 9-10, and 42-43 are also allowable.

5. Applicant has added new independent claim 54 while incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 10 therein. Therefore, regarding independent claim 54, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to all the other limitations of the claim, the ends of the outer protrusions arranged on each of the bus lines being out of alignment along the row direction of the matrix. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 54, claims 11-20 are also allowable.

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6. Regarding independent claim 21, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to other limitations of the claim, plural pairs of display electrodes, wherein each pair of display electrodes comprising two bases being parallel to each other and extending in the row direction of a matrix and one or more inner protrusions being arranged within each cell on an inner side of each of the bases so as to protrude toward an inner side of an opposite base, the ends of the inner protrusions arranged on each of the bases being out of alignment along the row direction of the matrix. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 21, claims 22-27 are also allowable.

7. Regarding independent claims 28 and 33, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to other limitations of the claim, plural pairs of display electrodes, wherein each pair of display electrodes comprising two bases being extended in a row direction of a matrix and having a snaky configuration along the plural pairs of display electrodes. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 28, claims 29-32 are also allowable.

8. Applicant has amended independent claim 38 incorporating the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 40 therein. Thus, regarding independent claim 38, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to other limitations of the claim, the ends of the inner protrusions arranged on each of the electrodes bases out of alignment. Due to its dependency upon independent claim 38, claim 41 is also allowable.

9. Regarding independent claim 44, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to all other limitations of the claim, an insulating layer composed of magnesium oxide and a material having a lower electron emission rate than magnesium oxide.

10. Regarding independent claim 45, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to all other limitations of the claim, the ends of the outer protrusions arranged on each of the bus lines being out of alignment along the row direction of the matrix.

11. Regarding independent claim 46, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to all other limitations of the claim, each pair of electrodes with two electrode bases that extend in a same direction and snake along the one or more pairs of electrodes.

12. Regarding independent claim 47, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to all other limitations of the claim, the ends of the inner protrusions arranged on each of the electrode bases out of alignment. Due to its dependency upon independent claim 47, claim 48 is also allowable.

13. Applicant has added new independent claim 55 incorporating the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 39 therein. Therefore, regarding independent claim 55, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a gas discharge panel having, in addition to all other limitations of the claim, each pair of electrodes with two electrode

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bases that extend in a same direction and snake along the one or more pairs of electrodes.

14. The subject gas discharge panel structure discussed earlier is provided for improving the luminance efficiency of the device. The design is new and unique to the art.

15. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quarterman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7-5:30).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin Quarterman
Examiner
Art Unit 2879

kq


10 January 2006


Joseph Williams
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879